longer, place them in the crisper of your refrigerator. Pick the blooms early before they open, about 7 or 8 a.m. place them in the fridge until 4 or 5 p.m. and you will find them opening up and they will last until after midnight. This is a splendid idea for when one has visitors or is entertaining. Just watch your friends admire the blooms, so grow them well first and display them well.

Remember your school days with "Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter." Well when you grow Hibiscus you want to remember your seasons. What time to fertilize? What time to prune? These are only a few of the questions one encounters when growing Hibiscus. We shall try to supply you with a few answers.

SPRING

Our Australian spring is from September to November, and spring culture of Hibiscus is very important. The first step of course is the pruning of your plants, this is usually carried out during the first weeks of September. The usual method is to cut the plant back approximately one third all over. One cutting factor that we advocate, and that is to trim the shoots just above a node or leaf bud that faces towards the centre of the plant. This will make your plant grow more erect and not sprawl all over the

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place. Always use sharp secateurs. When the young shoots are sprouted out about 4" long pinch the tips of them out, when another sprouting of about 2" grows forth pinch the tips out again. Your plant should now be bushing very nicely. Even though you will be later than some in getting bloom the extra flowers you will receive for your trouble will be well worth it. After you have pruned your plants you should fertilize them well. A liberal dose of cow manure, fowl manure or mushroom compost, say 2" around the plant and lightly forked in, will soon renew some vigor. Once the plants are growing well complete fertilizer such as gro-plus, Sussex 14, or nitro phoska should be applied. Follow the directions on the packet, often good plants are ruined through too much fertilizer at the wrong time, just let the plant absorb it slowly, don't be heavy handed. The time is usually about October or November for the first fertilizing. NOW the plants have been pruned, fertilized and are now growing, during this time watch closely for bugs. Malathion, wellspray or albarol (white oil) will take care of most of your bug problems. Spray when necessary and regularly. Aphis and Hibiscus weevils are the worst enemies of your plants. Please remember, Hibiscus need well drained soil and they do like to be watered quite often.

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Don't forget the Winter Show at the Florida State Fair on February 16th. See you there.